

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Fayerweather Hall

14 November 1977

Dear Josh,

I am glad we had a chance to talk last night. Bob and I have been thinking about you and wondering where you were in the decision process. In case there's any need to explain why both of us haven't stood up and cheered at the idea of having you nearby, let me say that I am concerned that you will find NYC a trying place to live (particularly since neither of you is unabashedly urban) and partly because I sense that you are not altogether at peace with the idea of moving, at least yet.

Still, NYC does have its points (which I need not describe at least not those involving ballet, galleries, opera, theater and so on) rather it is something like a critical mass effect which produces an intensity of conversation and experience which is mostly exhilarating and sometimes anxiety-provoking. One thing is clear -- in your Rockefeller role, you will have access to everyone and everything that is the best about New York and so I don't think you have to worry much about establishing social networks which will enable you and Marguerite to make use of the city. I am enclosing the latest mailing from the Century to give you the flavor of the place (sometimes it is more precious than I would like but mostly it's not) and Bob will arrange to get the membership list to you.

On to work items:

- ✓ (1) Bacti Reviews looks tailor made. I have sent for copies from the library, and will be back to you soon if I have reservations.
- ✓ (2) What is the source of the item on the NYC schools and the relative numbers of Westinghouse winners? Have enclosed it for your reference.
- (3) You may remember that I mentioned a woman endocrinologist-biochemist who knew you and had been one of Evans' students. I finally unearthed her name -- I. Dorothea Raacke -- and now find that she is engaged in a mammoth study of Evans' 345 collaborators with a special focus on his 52 women co-workers. Raacke's idea is that Evans was especially helpful to women even though he was otherwise very difficult. She writes me that researching Evans is like researching a "blood feud." It was in the context of an earlier discussion I had had

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with her about the difficulties women scientists encounter that she mentioned how formidable you were in your "salaḍ days" and how much you had changed since then. Just to keep the record straight, she in no way inferred that you were hard on women colleagues, unlike I gather a great many others in and out of the Delbrück school. Anyway, all this is to tie up a conversation we had in which I couldn't remember her name.

(4) Apropos the Nobel medallions and public use thereof. I don't know if the Foundation has copyright on the designs. When one was reproduced for the cover of my book, the publisher got the official photos from the Swedish cultural attache who went to great pains to make sure that the quality of the photograph we were to use would be good but I don't think we needed official permission to use the photos. The advertisement for nuclear energy really is exploitative -- would you have signed the statement if you had known it would be used as an ad for NewEngland utility companies?

(5) Did I ever get around to telling you that the Subcommittee on Science Indicators is sponsoring a review symposium in March on the new Science Indicators volume -- the idea being to bring together the producers of the volume, the Washington-based users and academic critics to examine the intellectual quality and policy implications of the enterprise. I am rather pleased so far with the people who will be preparing papers -- Joseph Ben-David on international comparisons, Zvi G. on the impact of R&D on the economy, Mansfield on International Economic Comparisons and Ed Tufte on Statistical issues in the volume. (This, an abbreviated list -- we've asked a number of others who haven't yet replied.)

(6) Otherwise, I have been having active conversations with a statistician here at Columbia on whether one can study accumulation of advantage empirically, and whether the interaction effects are so complicated that the findings wouldn't be meaningful even if some research were done. He's an interesting fellow (do you know Burt Singer?) with great enthusiasm for applied statistics. Among other things, he's working with Vincent Dole on how to take self-selection into account in clinical studies generally and methadone therapy specifically. The self-selection problem is of course one which resonates for me.

(7) The data from the Lipset-Ladd survey will soon be on tape and ready for analysis -- so bacteria should be my current order of business if the queue is to be kept in order. I owe you a memo on the relationship of "need" to focus of attention in science and also on a softened version of post-mature discovery. We will have to talk further about the structure of the paper if we decide that Bacti Reviews is the right place.

Love to all,

